

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5350
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2611

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, JA, CH, UR
SUBJECT: JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AND PRC VICE FONMIN DISCUSS PFT

REF: TOKYO 1249

SUMMARY: FEBRUARY 14 CONVERSATION BETWEEN JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SATO AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAN PRODUCED NO MOVEMENT ON SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT). TWO DID, HOWEVER, AGREE TO MEET AGAIN. CHINESE POSITION ON PFT'S ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY UNCOMPROMISING. WE DOUBT JAPANESE WILL BUDGE IN ABSENCE OF MORE POSITIVE CHINESE REACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF CHINA DIVISION DEPDIR SUGIYAMA BRIEFED EMBOFF FEBRUARY 16 ON JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SATO'S FEBRUARY 14 MEETING WITH
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CHINESE VICE FONMIN HAN NIEN-LUNG. MEETING, REQUESTED BY JAPANESE, WAS FOLLOW-UP TO SATO'S JANUARY 8 CONVERSATION WITH SINO-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN LIAO CHENG-CHIH, DURING WHICH SATO, WHO HAD RETURNED FROM TOKYO IN DECEMBER, CONVEYED TO CHINESE MOST RECENT GOJ THINKING ON PFT.

2. SUGIYAMA SAID CHINESE REACTION TO JAPANESE REQUEST IN JANUARY

8 MEETING FOR SOME FLEXIBILITY IN LANGUAGE TO SOFTEN IMPACT OF PFT'S ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE (REFTEL) CONTINUED TO BE "SEVERE." IN THAT EARLIER MEETING SATO HAD ASKED FOR CHINESE UNDERSTANDING NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO INCORPORATING LANGUAGE IN TREATY TO SOFTEN EFFECT OF ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE, BUT ALSO REGARDING PUBLIC INTERPRETATIONS OF CLAUSE GOJ WOULD HAVE TO MAKE FOLLOWING SIGNING OF PFT, IN ANSWER TO DIET AND PRESS QUESTIONS, TO EFFECT TREATY WAS NOT ANTI-SOVIET. SATO EXPLAINED TO LIAO THAT JAPANESE WERE NOT ASKING FOR CHINESE TO AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH ANYTHING GOJ MIGHT SAY PUBLICLY FOLLOWING TREATY SIGNING, BUT RATHER THAT PRC REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC COMMENT ON JAPANESE STATEMENTS. IN MEETING WITH VICE FONMIN HAN, SATO REPEATED THESE JAPANESE CONCERNS. HAN INDICATED NO SIGN OF FLEXIBILITY, MERELY RESTATING WELL-KNOWN PRC POSITIONS ON TREATY AND OFFERING UNHELPFUL COMMENT THAT QUESTION OF GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIETS WAS ENTIRELY UP TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

3. SUGIYAMA SAID SATO AND HAN AGREED TO MEET AGAIN, ALTHOUGH NO DATE WAS SET. SUGIYAMA HOPED THAT OVER COURSE OF NEXT 2-3 MEETINGS WITH HAN, CHINESE SIDE WOULD PROVE A LITTLE MORE RESPONSIVE, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF NPC WHEN PRC'S INTERNAL PREOCCUPATIONS MIGHT HAVE SUBSIDED.

4. AT CLOSE OF TALK, SUGIYAMA UNDERLINED SENSITIVITY OF ISSUES DISCUSSED AND ASKED THAT EMBOFF KEEP INFORMATION STRICTLY WITHIN USG.
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5. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT, IN ABSENCE OF MORE FORTHCOMING CHINESE ATTITUDE, GOJ WILL BE DISPOSED TO MOVE ANY FURTHER TOWARD PRC DEMANDS ON ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE. DESPITE PROMISE OF PROGRESS SATO-HAN MEETING SEEMED TO REPRESENT, STALEMATE MAY WELL CONTINUE. BALL IS NOW IN CHINESE COURT.
MANSFIELD

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